The Plant Doctor's CURRENT AFFAIRS

"Timely News for the Michigan Green Industry"

By David L. Roberts, Ph.D., *Senior Academic Specialist, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Michigan State University*

WINTER INJURY STILL #1:

Winter injury still appears to be the numero uno problemo into mid-summer. While most woody trees and shrubs either succumbed to or survived the unusually harsh winter of 2014, many plants are still struggling. Symptoms of winter injury earlier this season included bud death, necrotic vascular tissues, sparse foliage and slow emergence; one of the more recent symptoms include sudden wilting. Sudden wilting occurs because cambium tissues that were partially injured last winter are not able to keep up with the moisture needs of the abundant foliage as we enter the warmer, stressful summer. In some cases, winter injury may be confused with diseases and other problems such as herbicide injury. We can expect winter injury to be manifested through the end of summer as the heat and transpiration stresses tax plants to their limits. It is important to remember, however, that winter injury may not be lethal, and recovery of many plants will likely occur with time.

PROPICONAZOLE-RESISTANT SCAB:

Propiconazole-resistant Venturia scab has been known in the fruit industry for many years …. so much so that many if not most fruit growers have stopped using propiconazole. If scab control is not what it used to be on some of your crabapples and pears in the landscape, it is highly possible that that location has propiconazole-resistant Venturia. Fungicide resistance (and pesticide/herbicide resistance) most often develops with systemics and with over-use. I have noted that some arborists/landscapers claim to use two systemics in a tank mix—this may not be wise because resistance may develop to both, as it has in turf with dollar spot. The best advice is to use one systemic in a long rotation (4-5 years), then, switch to another systemic. I always recommend adding a contact fungicide with the systemic fungicide for broader control and because resistance rarely develops with contacts. Please bear in mind that resistance may also develop with other diseases such as Diplodia Tip Blight of Pines and Maple Tar Spot if fungicides are over-used.

NORWAY MAPLE DECLINE:

An inordinate number of Norway maples seem to be declining branch by branch in some locations in Michigan. Various factors may be involved. We know that Norway maples have a propensity for girdling roots. And, they are susceptible to a variety of pest and disease problems. Many of the recently examined wilted branches exhibit symptoms of winter injury, as evidenced by the grayish discoloration in cross sections of their branches. Could stress

Continued on page 14

Winter injury still appears to be the number one issue as we proceed into the middle of summer. These Bradford pears were varyingly affected by winter injury and will take some time to recover.

Norway maple in some locations around Michigan exhibit decline as tree owners witness with horror branch by branch wilting from one day to the next.

BANNER
SALES AND CONSULTING, INC.
TREE, TURF & ORNAMENTAL SPECIALISTS

P.O. BOX 430 • UNION LAKE MI 48387

Specialty Products For the Care of Trees and Landscapes combined with the Knowledge to get Desired Results!

ArborSystems

WEDGLE - Direct Inject Trunk inject trees with NO DRILLING! Most proven method of EAB control and other insects & diseases; correct nutrient deficiencies, growth regulate, fruit & seed reduction and more!

GROWTH PRODUCTS

LIQUID FERTILIZER SOLUTIONS
Salt free true liquids stay in solution, never clog or wear pumps.

NEW - Companion Biological Fungicide. Call to receive the custom Banner Mixes to solve your problems!

Need New Catalog? Email us at:
bannersales360@gmail.com

Serving MI, OH, IN, IL, WI
888-557-2455 Toll-Free
248-366-9609 Fax
www.bannersales.net

The Plant Doctor's CURRENT AFFAIRS

"Timely News for the Michigan Green Industry"

Continued from page 13

factors be contributing to winter injury which in turn is causing the decline? More than 20 years ago, I found a Cytospora (Valsa) canker affecting twigs and branches of Norway maple. Could this disease be rearing its ugly face after the harsh winter? Or could this be the dreaded Asian Long-horned Beetle? Further investigations are under way to try to determine why Norway maples are declining at such an alarming rate in some locales. If any of you have ideas, please feel free to contact me at robertsd@msu.edu.

Tar spot has all but disappeared this year from some previously highly infected trees, indicating the cyclic nature of many diseases and pests.

TAR SPOT NO MORE?

Over the past several years Tar Spot had been reaching such epidemic proportions that actual defoliation was occurring on many Norway and silver maples. Because of the epiphytotic (=epidemic) many arborists contemplated disease management strategies for some of their clients who have little tolerance for defoliation or, heaven forbid, spots on their leaves! This year has been unusual; in some locations, tar spot appears to be virtually non-existent. Did the harsh winter kill the tar spot spores? Was the spring unfavorable for tar spot infections? We may not know the reasons why tar spot is not prevalent in some locations in Michigan this year, but I'm sure that some tree owners and their maples are rejoicing at the disappearance of this "yucky" disease.

To report a "Current Affairs" or to submit a comment or question, please contact the Plant Doctor at robertsd@msu.edu.